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CLAIMS

1 1.   A method for integrating a third-party system with an online meeting system, the method

2   comprising:

3   providing a service provider interface (SPI) defining a plurality of procedures for

4   communicating with a meeting services application of the online meeting system;

5   implementing one of the procedures of the SPI by a software module to perform,

6   when executed, a meeting-related operation customized in accordance with the third-

7   party system; and

8   calling by the meeting service application the implemented SPI procedure of the

9   software module to perform the meeting-related operation.

1 2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the called SPI procedure notifies the software module of

2   a proposed transaction of an event in the online meeting system to enable the software

3   module to perform the meeting-related operation before the event occurs.

1 3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising prohibiting the occurrence of the event in

2   response to performing the meeting-related operation implemented by the called SPI

3   procedure.

1 4.   The method of claim 3, further comprising redirecting by the called SPI procedure a user

2   of the online meeting system to an error page in response to prohibiting the event.

1 5.   The method of claim 2, further comprising modifying meeting-related information

2   associated with the proposed event in response to performing the meeting-related

3   operation implemented by the called SPI procedure.

1 6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the called SPI procedure notifies the software module of

2   an event that has occurred in the online meeting system to enable the software module to

3   perform the meeting-related operation in response to the occurrence of that event.

1 7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising installing a new software module that

2   implements one of the SPI procedures, and dynamically integrating the new software

3   module to the meeting services application without stopping the online meeting system.

1 8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of calling the implemented SPI procedure is in

2   response to receiving a user request to create, edit, or delete a meeting.

1 9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of calling the implemented SPI procedure is in

2   response to detecting a state change of a running meeting.

1 10.   The method of claim 1, further comprising defining a first class that implements the SPI

2   and a second class that extends the first class and implements the called SPI procedure

3   that performs the customized method-related operation.

1 11.   An online meeting system, comprising a server system having memory for storing

2   program code and a processor for executing the program code, the program code

3   including:

4   a meeting service application for providing online meeting services for users

5   communicating with the online meeting system over a network connection;

6   a service provider interface (SPI) defining a plurality of procedures for

7   communicating with the meeting services application; and

8   a software module implementing one of the procedures of the SPI to perform a

9   meeting-related operation customized in accordance with a third-party system when the

10   procedure is called by the meeting service application.

1   12.   The online meeting system of claim 11, wherein the implemented SPI procedure, when

2   called, notifies the software module of a proposed transaction of an event in the online

3   meeting system to enable the software module to perform the meeting-related operation

4   before the event occurs.

1   13.   The online meeting system of claim 12, wherein the implemented SPI procedure includes

2   program code for throwing an exception to prohibit the occurrence of the event in

3   response to performing the meeting-related operation.

1   14.   The online meeting system of claim 11, wherein the called SPI procedure notifies the

2   software module of an event that has occurred in the online meeting system to enable the

3   software module to perform the meeting-related operation in response to the occurrence

4   of that event.

1   15.   The online meeting system of claim 11, wherein the server system includes a means of

2   storing software modules to be integrated in the online meeting system, and wherein the

3   meeting services application periodically accesses the storage means to install

4   dynamically any software module newly added to the storage means without stopping the

5   online meeting system.

1   16.   The online meeting system of claim 11, further comprising program code defining a first

2   class that implements the plurality of procedures of the SPI and a second class that

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3   extends the first class and provides a customized implementation of one of the SPI

4   procedures defined in the first class.

1   17.   An apparatus for integrating a third-party system with an online meeting system, the

2   apparatus comprising:

3   means for providing a service provider interface (SPI) defining a plurality of

4   procedures for communicating with a meeting services application of the online meeting

5   system;

6   means for implementing one of the procedures of the SPI by a software module to

7   perform, when executed, a meeting-related operation customized in accordance with the

8   third party system; and

9   means for calling by the meeting service application the implemented SPI

10   procedure of the software module to perform the meeting-related operation.

1   18.   The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the means for calling the implemented SPI procedure

2   includes means for notifying the software module of a proposed transaction of an event in

3   the online meeting system to enable the software module to perform the meeting-related

4   operation before the event occurs.

1   19.   The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the means for calling the implemented SPI procedure

2   includes means for prohibiting the occurrence of the event in response to performing the

3   meeting-related operation.

1   20.   The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for defining a first class that

2   implements the plurality of procedures of the SPI and a second class that extends the first

3   class and provides a customized implementation of one of the SPI procedures defined in

4   the first class.

1   21.   A computer program product for use with a computer system, the computer program

2   product comprising a computer useable medium having embodied therein program code

3   comprising:

4   program code for providing a service provider interface (SPI) defining a plurality

5   of procedures for communicating with a meeting services application of the online

6   meeting system;

7   program code for implementing one of the procedures of the SPI by a software

8   module to perform, when executed, a meeting-related operation customized in

9   accordance with the third party system; and

10   program code for calling by the meeting service application the implemented SPI

11   procedure of the software module to perform the meeting-related operation.

1   22.   The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the program code for calling the

2   implemented SPI procedure includes program code for notifying the software module of

3   a proposed transaction of an event in the online meeting system to enable the software

4   module to perform the meeting-related operation before the event occurs.

1   23.   The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the program code for calling the

2   implemented SPI procedure includes program code for prohibiting the occurrence of the

3   event in response to performing the meeting-related operation.

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1   24.   The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising program code for

2   defining a first class that implements the plurality of procedures of the SPI and a second

3   class that extends the first class and provides a customized implementation of one of the

4   SPI procedures defined in the first class.

1   25.   A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave for use with a computer system

2   having a display and capable of generating a user interface through which a user may

3   interact with the computer system, the computer data signal comprising:

4   program code for providing a service provider interface (SPI) defining a plurality

5   of procedures for communicating with a meeting services application of the online

6   meeting system;

7   program code for implementing one of the procedures of the SPI by a software

8   module to perform, when executed, a meeting-related operation customized in

9   accordance with the third party system; and

10   program code for calling by the meeting service application the implemented SPI

11   procedure of the software module to perform the meeting-related operation.

1   26.   The computer data signal of claim 25, wherein the program code for calling the

2   implemented SPI procedure includes program code for notifying the software module of

3   a proposed transaction of an event in the online meeting system to enable the software

4   module to perform the meeting-related operation before the event occurs.

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1   27.   The computer data signal of claim 25, wherein the program code for calling the

2   implemented SPI procedure includes program code for prohibiting the occurrence of the

3   event in response to performing the meeting-related operation.

1   28.   The computer data signal of claim 25, further comprising program code for defining a

2   first class that implements the plurality of procedures of the SPI and a second class that

3   extends the first class and provides a customized implementation of one of the SPI

4   procedures defined in the first class.